AKC Delegates Meeting – September 2023

The September Delegates Committee Meetings and Delegates Meeting was held on September 11 and 12, 2023 at the Double Tree Hilton, Newark International Airport, Newark, New Jersey.
The following is a summary of the September 11 Committee meetings and the AKC Delegates meeting on September 12th.

PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

- AKC staff member, Marie Beth O'Neil reported on various student veterinarian activities which included attending a meeting at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Science of which 65 vet students were in attendance.

Marie Beth also announced that Tufts University is providing 1 credit for students who mentor established dog breeders to help observe and assist with a whelping.

- AKC announced that Online Event Management (for managing events) requires an ID
- Group alignment was discussed with recommendations to AKC BOD they carefully review group alignments both current as well as proposed future alignments. Careful consideration of new breeds, their standard and the group best suited for their placement should be done before assigning a group. The Parent Club recommends gathering data that supports the number of dogs in the group that actually compete before being assigned.
- There was a great amount of discussion regarding AKC Market Dept. using recent 'Designer Dogs" language in marketing messaging, Designer Dog implied to be a breeding of two different breeds.

Several Parent Clubs took exception to the marketing as to mean AKC supports "Designer Dogs" rather than purebred dogs. One final recommendation was the AKC Marketing Dept will need reviewed internally to address such concerns.

Field Trial & Hunt Test Committee

Master Hunt Excellence Test was approved by the AKC BOD.

- The Westminster Kennel Club is hosting a Field Event the first weekend in November 2023 in North Carolina that will focus on hunting / doing what sporting dogs were bred to do.
- Effective August 1, 2023; tracking collars will continue to be monitored BUT receivers will not.

Coordinating Committee Highlights

All Breed Committee:

- Make sure puppies get registered
- A 5-year Strategic Plan, Power Point will be available in December to assist clubs with long-term development.

Canine Health Committee:

- OFA now has 34 thousand collections in the DNA bank.

Companion Events Committee:

- Committee does not support "talking" to your dog in Novice A
- Disposable jumps are a safety hazard
- Goggles are now approved to wear in tracking

Delegate Advocacy:

- A survey is being done to determine why many Delegates are being replaced

Dog Show Rules Committee:

- Chapter 15, Section 1 – When a dog is DQ (disqualified) for health reasons at an event, it must be done "before" the dog is dismissed from the grounds.

- Show catalogs will now only contain the following exhibitor information: City / State / email

AKC Staff Report:

- Grants are available from the AKC Humane Fund for parent clubs
- 15 new delegates will be seated on 9/12/23
- Litter registration up 1% but registration of dogs is down by 8%
- Media opportunities have increased this year
- Government relations continue to monitor key state and national legislative issues. It is important when AKC contacts your parent and all breed clubs informing of a legislative concern in your state or nationally to contact your state / federal legislators. Too often they hear from advocacy groups who are not concerned with the impact certain legislation may have on the sport of dogs.